A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, February 5. 1709.

I Come now to examine farther into the Caſe of the Invaſion in *Scotland*, and I hope, no Body will miſunderſtand me, and think I am ſaying, there are no Encouragements given to the Enemy for his renewing that Attempt, becauſe I cannot allow, his Encouragements are as great as before; The Diſtinction is brief and plain.

1. From the Circumſtances of the People in *Scotland*, I mean the Body of the People, the People who adhere to the preſent Settlement; *he has not the ſame Encouragement*, for their Eyes are open'd, they have arriv'd to a Determination of the Difference between the *Union*, (whether they like it or no) and a *Popiſh Pretender*, between an Union with *England* and an Union with *France*: And tho' there are ſome among them have ſo little Kindneſs for the Union, that they could wiſh it diſſolv'd, yet they do not like to have it done this way——— Their Eyes are open'd, they have declar'd themſelves one and all againſt it, and whole Towns, whole Counties have aſſociated, and reſolv'd immediately to take Arms, if ever ſuch an Attempt is made, and to fight them to the laſt Gaſp.

2. From the Affairs in *England* he has not the ſame Encouragement; for our Eyes are that way, and we are not ſo capable of being ſurpriz'd as *we were* then——— It is true, as I ſaid before, in ſmall Parties,

a

a few Ships at a Time, they may make an Attempt, or as we may call them, Inroads upon *Scotland*, and as *Scotland* is ſituate, it is morally impoſſible to prevent their Landing; ſo if they reſolve to venture but to fit out any Force, *as before*, to attack the Capital, and to make any great Figure, they have not the ſame Encouragement, for they know we ſhall be upon them, and it is next to impoſſible they ſhould ſucceed in any ſuch Attempt.

But now if you will come to talk of another Sort of People in *Scotland*, *or here either*; if you come to enquire into the Numbers and the Inſolence of the *Jacobite* Party, how they have eſcap'd from Juſtice, and their *Rehearſal* calling it *coming off with Honour*, how they inſult the Government, rabble the Church, affront Juſtice, and bid Defiance to Law; Here I readily allow, the *French* has rather greater Encouragement than he had before; and here I will ſome Things were the Subject of our Enquiry. *Viz.*

How theſe laſt arraign'd there came to be acquitted and aſſoil'd, and perhaps in ſuch an Enquiry the Behaviour of the Judges in Criminal Caſes in *Scotland* may come to be enquir'd into, not in this Caſe only, but ſome others; for if this Matter be not enquir'd into, it may be found a more difficult Matter to convict a *Jacobite* in *Scotland*, than moſt People are at preſent aware of; and this may be a particular Reaſon, why the *Jacobites* there are arriv'd to ſuch an Inſolence, in that they promiſe to themſelves an eaſie Eſcape, either from the Defect of Law, or the Defect of executing the Law. Nor will our new Act now on Foot prevent this Part; for if the Laws paſs never ſo many Amendments and Alterations, if the Judges of thoſe Laws are not ſo choſen, or ſo regulated, as that we may arrive to a clear and impartial Execution of thoſe Laws, it will be to very little Purpoſe to have them altered. This therefore muſt be allow'd to be a moſt material Branch of our Enquiry into the Invaſion; *Viz.* Whether the Ways for Traytors to eſcape Puniſhment in *Scotland*, and the Doors for them to ſlip out at, are not ſo many, and ſo wide open as to give Encouragement to a Party to inſult the Government, depending upon Impunity and Aſſoilment, in Caſe of being brought to the Bar; and this Enquiry is more particularly needful at this Time, by how much the acquitting theſe Men is made an Argument, why they ſhould not have been taken up, which by the way, I muſt think, is the greateſt Miſtake imaginable; for if the Government in ſuch a Time, *as this was*, of publick Danger from an invading Pretender, ſhall not have Power to apprehend any Body, but ſuch againſt whom there is ſufficient Evidence, Men of profeſs'd Averſions to the Government, ſhall have Liberty to carry their Attempts againſt it to a very great Height, and the Government ſhall have no Power to lay hold on them, till perhaps they may be too ſtrong to be laid hold on.

And this brings us to the Point in hand, *Viz.* What are the juſt Grounds of Suſpicion? In which I think, the Paper call'd my Lord *H———m*'s Speech commits a very great Miſtake.

I confeſs, the Paper call'd a Speech has borrow'd the *Jacobites* Argument in *Scotland*, and borrow'd it exceedingly in making Uſe of it in ſo publick a Diſcourſe, I mean, the Argument brought by the *Jacobite* Clergy in *Scotland*, why they ſhould not take the Oaths to the QUEEN. *The Caſe is thus.*

He ſays, *Great Pains has been taken to perſwade the World from Mens Practice in former Reigns, that they are ſtill of Arbitrary Principles; and from thence 'tis infer'd they ought to be ſuſpected———*And from thence aſks, *if we are to ſuſpect any who are at the Head of the Miniſtry?*

The *Jacobite* Clergy in *Scotland*, whoſe Meeting-Houſes are now ſuppreſs'd, as being Perſons ſuſpected of favouring the Enemy, becauſe they do not take the Oaths——SAY in their late celebrated *Narrative*, that this is a Miſtake; *they are Men of peaceable Diſpoſitions, and the Government is ſafe in them*, p. 11. 15, 16.——*And why ſhould you not as well ſuſpect the* Presbyterians,

ſince

since a great many of them refus'd the Oaths at the Revolution, and do so still?

The Parallel, I believe, will be allow'd to be very exact, and the Answer, which is given to the Allegations of the *Jacobites*, will certainly serve here———The Question does not lie upon former but present Behaviour, tho' both refuse the Oaths alike, yet the known Practice of the *Presbyterians*, tho' refusing the Oaths, having been for twenty Year past loyal, moderate, and pursuing the Interest of Liberty, Revolution, Succession, and Union; and the known Practice of the other having been to oppose them all; the Distinction made is very just, and there appears an unanswerable Reason for suspecting the one, and trusting the other.

And so again of his Complaint, that Persons are render'd suspected for complaining of the Ministry, and yet those that espoused the Case and Complaint of the Merchants in last Parliament, advanc'd now to the greatest Places of Trust———

Now this serves only to usher in a necessary Distinction, which the Author of that Speech no doubt foresaw, would be made, *Viz. between those who complain of real Grievances with Design to have them redress'd for the publick Good*; and those who seeking Occasions, *complain of Persons rather than of Things*, and push at putting Some out and some in———In which Case the Endeavour has been plain, to put out not the Persons only, but the Party from the Administration; and there is no Question, but when he considers that Distinction again, he will see plainly, that this Part of his Objection is as faulty as the other.

It seems to me, that a Man's former profess'd Disaffection of Principle, not bury'd by any known Alteration of Practice *since*, must be allow'd a sufficient Ground of Suspicion; and on the other hand, any Man's former Principles openly and avowedly laid down, and testify'd by a Series of Fidelity, Loyalty, and Moderation, are no Objection against his being valued, trusted, and supported; which way, or at whom the Arguments point on either hand, I neither know nor enquire.

It remains to examine, how comes it to pass, that after so great a Discourse both in *France*, and here also, of a strong Party in *Scotland*, upon whose Encouragement the late Attempt was made, and the just Probability that such an Attempt was *not made without great Encouragement*; yet no Body can be pitch'd upon, at whose Door the Guilt can be laid; and as this merits some Enquiry, so I shall make an Essay upon it in my next. At present I shall say,

1. You must enquire of the *French* Admiral Monsieur.....and ask him the Reason, why he did not land somewhere else, after he had found himself disappointed at *Leith*, that their Friends might have shewn themselves?

2. Ask the Lords of the Justi...y?

And after all, if none of these will inform you, I may attempt to give you some Reasons for it from my own Observation.

ADVERTISEMENT.

Lately Publish'd,

A New Description of the World, delineating *Europe*, *Asia*, *Africa*, and *America*; with a Map and Tables of the Empires, Kingdoms, Provinces, and Cities therein, together with a Chronological and Historical Account of the Emperors, Kings, Princes, Governments, Religion, Languages, Customs, Commodities, Revolutions, and Rarities thereof. By *H. Curson*, Gent. Sold by *John Morphew*, near *Stationers-Hall*. (Price 2 *s.*)

An